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Client: Colorado Independent Ethics Commission
Attorney: Kyle Dumler
Investigator: Ann Schrader
Subject: Valerie Beck

Ann: I'm Ann Schrader from Acclaim Investigations. It is March 26th. I'm here with Valerie Beck. That's B as in boy E-C-K. She is the director of scheduling for the governor.

Valerie: Formerly.

Ann: Formerly. Okay, but you were at the time.

Valerie: At the time, yep.

Ann: Also sitting in, is David Spector who is the governor's counsel. I just wanted to walk through a little bit about the conference and just start with some basic things. When were you first alerted about the conference?

Valerie: Probably eight or nine months before the conference, purely logistical. The DGA would work through our campaign finance director, Laura, and ask them for a date so that they could hold the hotel room. I would just give them potential dates that could be held on the governor's calendar. I would know about it months in advance.

Ann: Months in advance. Did the idea come from the DGA then, for the conference?

Valerie: Yeah. I don't even really know where the idea came from.

Ann: It wasn't the governor's staff?

Valerie: No.

Ann: That came up with the idea? It was probably the DGA then?

Valerie: That's my understanding.

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Ann: Who briefed you about the conference and about what would be needed from you as part of making the conference happen?

Valerie: Laura is my contact with all things regarding the DGA. I was purely involved logistically. It didn't have a lot to do with background on the event. That nine months or so before I heard about the conference, I basically plotted the points on the calendar and then didn't really talk about it with anybody until it started to impact the rest of the governor's planning of his calendar for that time as the time approached.

Ann: Who did you work with at the DGA, though to fine tune the calendar as you got a little bit closer in regard to the governor's schedule?

Valerie: I really don't interact with the DGA, or at least when I had the position. We would work through Laura to really just make it as streamlined as possible. DGA would send invites or updates about things. I wouldn't even respond to those. I would forward them on to Laura or something. Then her recommendation would come to me on what we needed to participate in or not. I didn't have that lens if it was something the governor needed to attend or not.

Ann: How do you go about building a schedule for him in regard to the conference and where do you get input on other activities that he may have done while he was up there?

Valerie: I would basically get a lineup schedule from Laura of DGA events. My job as the governor's scheduler was to make everything in his life fit. There was one bucket, and I was the one bucket. To make my life livable, if there were things that he needed to be doing in relation to the DGA; then I would say, Laura, that's your baby. You tell me where he needs to be and when and I'll plug it into the calendar and make sure that it works with all the other commitments that he has on his calendar, whether that be a family commitment or an official governor commitment, any of those. I would get that outlined and I would plug in the other needs that I knew about.

Ann: The dates were set and at that point, you got information from Laura Warren then, on what the DGA planned to do, like roundtables and breakfasts and things like that.

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- Valerie: I would say that leading up to his ... leading a week out, I basically blocked off his calendar from like ... I'm guesstimating the times I had blocked out, but it would be like 10am to 5 DGA in Aspen, just so that I didn't put any conflicts in there. Then pretty much a week or so before, I would go in and plug in the details that Laura would provide for me.
- Ann: Did that also include the campaign related activities for the governor, that Laura would tell you about those and you would just plug those in?
- Valerie: Yeah, I mean the campaign events were treated because Laura is the overseer of that stuff, the DGA and the campaign, so she has that block of time to work with, so she would fill those in.
- Ann: Did the governor have any official governor events in relation to the Aspen conference surrounding that? Did he stop on the way up there and dedicate something?
- Valerie: Yeah, he did. I'm forgetting off the top of my head what those were, but when I plot on the calendar eight or nine months out that he's going to be in Aspen, I am strategically looking at that calendar with the governor, all of our staff, our policies, everyone. We're thinking we know we've got Aspen. Where are all the other places we need to visit on our way up, on our way back? How do we be as efficient as possible with his time?
- Ann: When it came to DGA or campaign related events surrounding the conference, you just plugged those into a calendar?
- Valerie: Mm hmm. I know, but I would say he's a popular guy. I would tell him that all the time. You're popular. Everybody has you in a million different directions. That's how I made the policy office put in their ... they would tell me I need an hour on June 12th. Then I just plopped the time there and I would be like you guys are in charge of that time. I couldn't plan every event, so that's how that works.
- Ann: Once it's on your calendar, people don't screw with it, right?
- Valerie: You better not.

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Ann: According to a discovery that you spent about two hours preparing for the conference, so it was the scheduling, calendarizing, and getting information from Laura and people who were writing up the policy briefings and so on?

Valerie: We would, like I said, it was all one bucket when I was scheduler up until February, all one bucket and so even though that was Laura's baby, it still was on the governor's calendar and treated at the same level as any other event on the governor's calendar, so I had to do all my double, triple checking. When you look at the calendar, the addresses will be correct.

Ann: It's important.

Valerie: It's very logistical and attention to detail, and so that's what my two hours were spent doing.

Ann: It said that you spent your time conferring with planners, so that was Laura Warren, in other words, and the campaign staff, and once again that's probably Laura Warren, right?

Valerie: Yeah. We had a campaign staff of one at that time.

Ann: Did the governor provide input on his schedule for events around the DGA conference?

Valerie: He always provides input on his schedule. The input that he would provide us, the scheduling process and the governor's office is such that we have a lot of checks. He likes to know what's on his calendar, where he's going to be. We have scheduling requests come through our online process where people have to check that they're compliant with Amendment 41. Then we take it to our staff. Staff reviews the scheduling requests. With an event like the DGA, I get the request directly from Laura, so that's not submitted online, so it's just a review process where we say ... [crosstalk 10:48] down the road and the governor, by the time it gets to the governor, we're at having vetted it through all of those things and then we sit there and look at his calendar for that entire month of July or August and see how it all plays out. The reason that we do that, usually the kind of input the governor gives is, oh, we're going to be in Aspen? He'll say something like I told that business in Glenwood Springs that we would stop by, and I think we did a road opening

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or did something with the Department of Transportation. We do that because he remembers what he told people. [crosstalk 11:33].

Ann: Can you remember any specific requests that he had for any sort of activity in relation to the conference or surrounding the conference?

Valerie: If it was in relation to the DGA; that would be totally in conversations that he would have had with Laura. Leading up, like I said, that was an example that was coming back to me, that there was a stop at ... Glenwood Springs is a turnoff up to Aspen. I didn't not so much with the actual DGA event.

Ann: I'll talk to Laura as well. You allocated the governor's time and he stayed at the conference and non-conference activities and events, and that's what you're referring to is the campaign related events or...?

Valerie: Yeah, yeah, and non-conference related events, I mean that I think that covers a broad spectrum like ... as his scheduler I was on call to, if his son had an issue or something, I would be the contact for him to get in touch with home. If there was a room issue. He's not a very picky governor, but like they didn't get him the right room, I would help with that kind of logistical stuff as well as if there were any other official meetings. I just am not remembering us doing any official.

Ann: That was the extent of your involvement with the DGA conference then?

Valerie: Mm. Hmm.

Ann: Were there any sort of discussions that you had with the governor after the conference about how things went?

Valerie: No, not really beyond how was the weekend? How was Aspen?

Ann: How could Aspen be bad?

Valerie: I know, and to be honest, in my world, no news is good news. I remember it being a very quiet weekend and so that was nice for me and there weren't follow-up action items for me. I do have a Monday morning check-in with him on that stuff, but it wasn't like be

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sure to reach out to so and so or anything that I can remember. I wasn't in trouble for anything.

Ann: It's good to get an A or a star. Was Laura Warren the one who set up the sponsor dinner then at the Little Nell, and you just blocked in the time? Is that the way that works? You don't have any knowledge about who was at that dinner with the governor?

Valerie: I don't. Laura would have done the briefing for that. She would have booked the space. She would have talked to the hosts. The only involvement I would have had was putting it on the governor's calendar. I'm making my job sound really easy. It's not easy.

Ann: I would think I would tear my hair out. You just keep moving and it keeps moving faster? Did the governor talk to you at all about any sort of fund raising in relation to the DGA conference?

Valerie: All the fundraising conversations are with Laura. I'm not a fundraising expert.

Ann: You have no knowledge of any fundraising then in regard to the DGA that the governor might have done?

Valerie: No. I know what the DGA does, so that's my extent of my knowledge, but it wasn't a conversation I had with the governor.

Ann: They're going to have another policy discussion I think up in Aspen in what, August?

David: We have policy conferences scheduled throughout the year [crosstalk 16:17].

Ann: You're going to miss that one and here you're an old hand.

Valerie: I know. I was jump scheduler for four years, so it's all good. Someone else can have this one.

Ann: I think that will do it. Do you have anything else you want to add or to clarify?

Valerie: I really, really don't.

Ann: Thank you.

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